



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

New York District  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, N.Y. 10278  
ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

# Public Notice

In replying refer to:  
Public Notice No. Raritan River, NJ - Mile 2.0-4.0 / 05  
Published: Dec 16, 2004 Expires: Jan 16, 2005

## **MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF RARITAN RIVER, NJ FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL**

### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 404 (33 U.S.C. 1344) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (amended in 1977 and commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act), and Section 103 (33 U.S.C. 1413, 86 Statute 1052) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972 (commonly referred to as the Ocean Dumping Act), proposes to perform maintenance dredging of a portion of the Raritan River Federal navigation project (see Figure No. 1) with subsequent placement of the dredged material at a suitable, State permitted placement site(s) to be approved by the Government.

**ACTIVITY:** Maintenance dredging of the Raritan River federal navigation project, in the main channel (25 ft depth, 300 ft wide) from Mile 2.0 (NY R.R. Bridge) to approximately 2 miles upstream to Mile 4.0 (Garden State Parkway Bridge), with placement of the dredged material at a State approved disposal site. Dredging will cover a portion of Reach B, all Reach C and a great portion of Reach D. (Figure No.1).

**WATERWAY:** Raritan River, NJ – Main Channel.

**LOCATION:** From Perth Amboy and South Amboy upstream to Keasby, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Maintenance dredging of the Raritan River Federal navigation project is authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1919 and subsequently modified by the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1930, 1937, 1940 and 1962. The project includes the following channels:

- a. A main channel, 25 feet deep, 300 feet wide, from the turn in New York and New Jersey Channels, near Great Beds Light to the Raritan Arsenal Wharf; thence 15 feet deep, 200 feet wide, to the Washington Canal; thence 10 feet deep in soft material and 11 feet deep in rock, and generally 100 feet wide, with widening at bends, to the Delaware and Raritan Canal entrance at New Brunswick. This Channel is about 13.8 miles long.
- b. A turning basin opposite Raritan Arsenal Wharf, 25 feet deep, 300 feet wide and 1,000 feet long. A south channel 25 feet deep, 300 feet wide, from its junction with the main channel opposite Keasby to the upper limit of the NL Industries property 15 feet deep, 150 feet wide to the Middlesex County Sewerage Authority Dock; thence 10 feet deep and 150 feet wide to the junction with the Main Channel at Crab Island.

A detailed description of the proposed activities is enclosed to assist in your review.

This activity is being evaluated to determine that the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on a State permitted, suitable placement site(s) approved by the government, will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare, economic potential, recreation and aesthetics, water quality, marine resources, ecological systems and/or flood protection.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Comments are used to assess impacts on navigation, water quality, endangered species, historic resources, wetlands, scenic and recreational values, and other public interest factors. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and to determine the need for a public hearing.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS ON THE FRONT PAGE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE. otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by the activity. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

No known archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data are expected to be lost by work accomplished under the required dredging.

Reviews of the activity pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines announced by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps will obtain a water quality certificate (WQC) or waiver from the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to commencement of any work.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 USC 1456(c)], for activities conducted or supported by a federal agency in a state that has a federally approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, the Corps will submit a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State of New Jersey CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. The Corps will request the State's agreement with that determination. For activities within the coastal zone of New Jersey project information is available from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Coastal Regulation, CN 401, 501 East State Street, Second Floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0401, Telephone (609) 633-2289. Comments regarding this project's certification should be so addressed.

In compliance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1996 amendments), an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment has been prepared and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for review and comment.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, Third District
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey State Department of State.
- Middlesex County, New Jersey

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact this office at (212) 264- 5621 and ask for Mr. Joseph Olha, Project Manager. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264- 1463 ATTN: Mr. Joseph Olha, Project Manager.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED FEDERAL ACTION:**

The U.S. Army Engineer District, New York proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Raritan River main navigation channel. This channel was last dredged in 2000 with the removal of 431,645 cubic yards of sediment and placed at the Historic Area Remediation Site (HARS) in the Atlantic Ocean. The proposed maintenance dredging would involve the removal of approximately 152,000 cubic yards of material (based on a condition survey dated 7-12 June 2003) to a depth of 25 ft below Mean Low Water (MLW) with 2 ft allowable overdepth. Maintenance dredging of the channel is generally accomplished by clamshell dredge, hopper dredge or similar plant. The entire channel will generally not require maintenance dredging; only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging. This public notice specifically addresses (3) reaches (B,C,D) of the Raritan River, between the old Railroad Bridge (Reach B-C) at Mile 2.0 and the Garden State Parkway Bridge (Reach C-D) at Mile 4.0. The dredged material from this 2005 dredging cycle at Reaches B, C, D of the Raritan River will be disposed of at a permitted, suitable placement site(s) provided by the contractor and approved by the Government.

The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby assuring safe and economical use of the Raritan River Channel by shipping interests.

This public notice serves to announce the government's intent and indicates that the proposed placement site must accommodate approximately 152,000 cubic yards of dredged material. The dredging and placement at a permitted facility for this project is estimated to take approximately two months to complete.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

The dredged material to be removed from the Raritan River Federal Navigation Channel, Reaches B, C, D will be placed at a State permitted, suitable upland site(s). An update of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and a 404 (b) evaluation as required by the Clean Water Act 40 CFR 230 will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed work.

## **PLACEMENT SITE:**

The dredged material will be transported to a State permitted, suitable upland site(s) furnished either by the local sponsor or the contractor and approved by the government. The dredged material will be required to meet all federal, state and local criteria required by the government agencies having jurisdiction where the site is located. All necessary permits required of the contractor for the dredged material placement will be provided to the government.

**CONCLUSION:**

Results of physical testing of the proposed dredged material indicate the grain size characteristics as of:

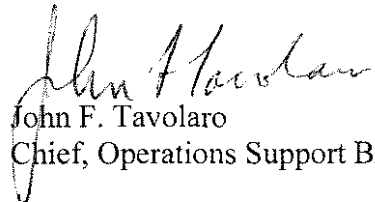
0.89% GRAVEL, 22.34% SAND, 45.13% SILT, 31.64% CLAY

Distribution based on a sampling of 6 samples collected within the project area and combined to yield one sediment composite.

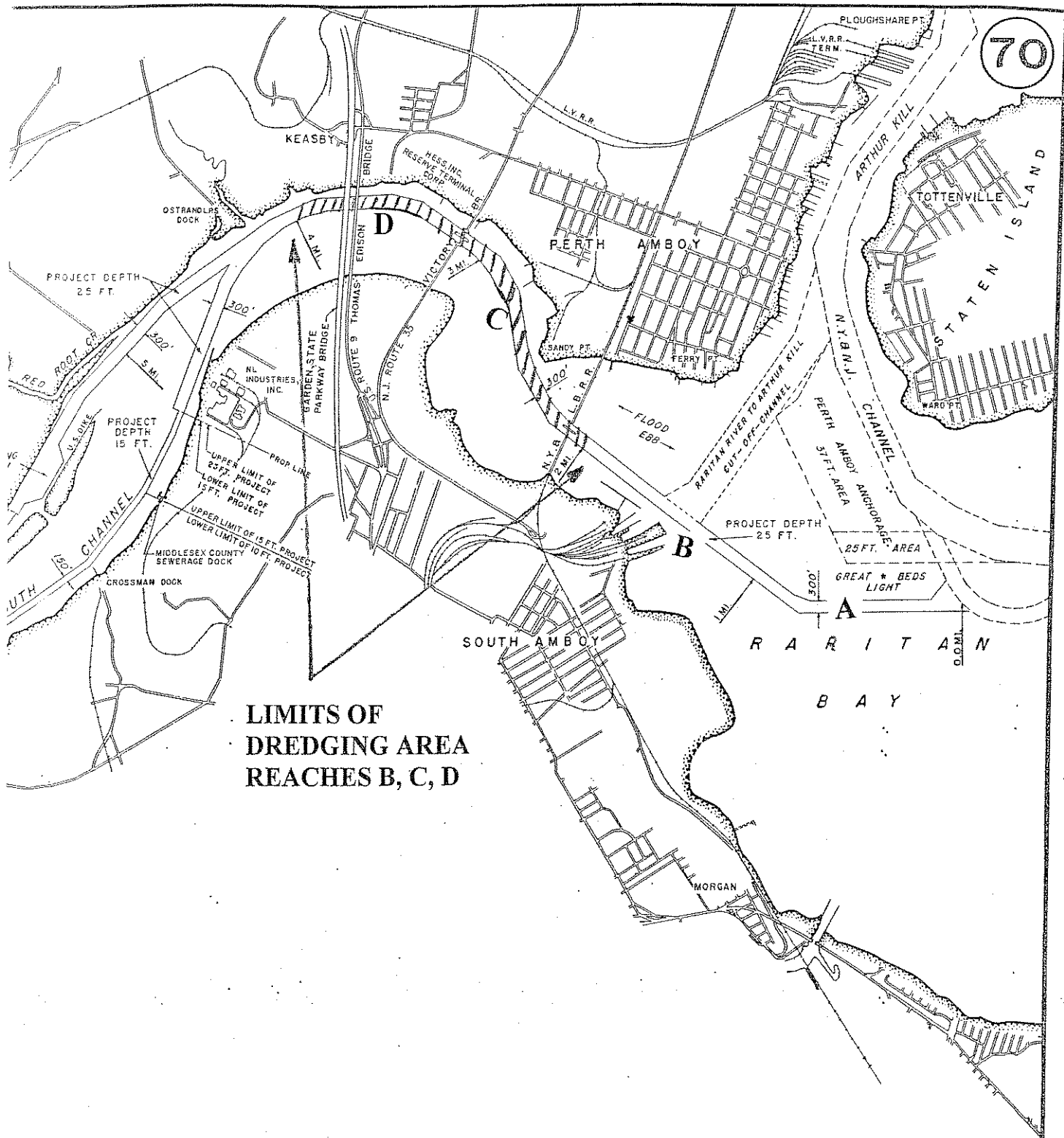
Results of recent testing of the sediments proposed for dredging from the Raritan River, Reaches B, C, D, between the old railroad bridge at mile 2.0 and the Garden State Parkway bridge at mile 4.0, indicate that the sediment is not suitable for ocean disposal and will require a non-ocean placement site.

For more information on the New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice.

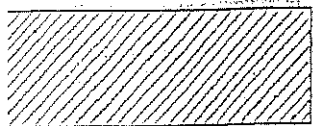
  
John F. Tavoraro  
Chief, Operations Support Branch

Enclosures:  
Project Map



**LIMITS OF  
DREDGING AREA  
REACHES B, C, D**

# LEGEND



Dredging Area

REACH B, C, D

**FIGURE No. 1**

**RARITAN RIVER, N. J.**

30 SEPTEMBER 1986

SCALE OF FEET

2000 0 2000

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK